

# **Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee**

## ***APPROVED MEETING MINUTES - Summary Version***

**March 15, 2001**

**SPU Operations Control Center**

**Metering Building**

**2700 Airport Way S., Seattle**

**Members Present:** Bruce Bachen (SPU), Sam Wright (Washington Trout), Dave Paden (Puget Sound Anglers), Tom Sibley (NMFS), Gwill Ging (USFWS), Frank Urabeck (NWMTA), Dennis Moore, Eric Warner (MIT), Steve Foley, Brodie Antipa (WDFW), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Scott Brewer (King County)

**Other Participants:** Bill Wells, Cyndy Holtz (SPU)

- I. Call to order.** Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
- II. Approval of agenda.** Sam suggested broadening the discussion of interim mitigation to include all species (chinook, steelhead and coho). The agenda was approved with that change.
- III. Minutes review and approval for January 18, 2001 meeting** – Minutes were approved as presented without objection.
- IV. Steelhead proposal** – *WDFW requested HCP interim mitigation funding to support collection of steelhead at the locks, but was able to identify alternative funding for this year. The discussion about steelhead supplementation centered on the need to develop a management plan that would describe if, how and when supplementation would be used to aid species recovery. Numbers of steelhead entering Lake Washington have been low this year and were low last year. When runs were higher, broodstock was used to try to help establish steelhead runs to northern tributaries to Lake Washington; as runs have dropped there has been greater consideration of using supplementation to rebuild the run in the Cedar River itself. To continue with the broodstock collection program, WDFW has said that additional funding will be needed. Supplementation proposals will need to come from the co-managers.*
- V. Chinook supplementation discussion** – *Both co-managers indicated that there was interest in supplementing chinook in the Cedar River, but no proposals have been developed. The Muckleshoot Tribe has met internally and will be meeting with WDFW to discuss chinook supplementation. There is growing concern that harvest opportunities in Puget Sound and Lake Washington might be adversely affected by the low chinook returns to the Cedar River due to bycatch.*

### Coho supplementation

*Coho supplementation was seen as an opportunity by some members, particularly with respect to encouraging colonization of the habitat above Landsburg Dam. Some discussion of where broodstock would come from occurred. As with the other species, a proposal from the co-managers would provide the basis for further discussion.*

### **VI. Hatchery design and program development –**

*John McGlenn, project manager for the TetraTech/KCM team was introduced. John presented an organizational plan showing key team members. Members of the AFC indicated that they were happy with the team that had been assembled citing their ability to identify and work through the issues associated with hatcheries. Discussion centered on the importance of open and ongoing communication between the AFC and the TetraTech/KCM design team during the development of the program elements and the conceptual design. The committee plans to use the review process that has worked so far with the fish passage facilities. Due to the amount of work that needs to be accomplished, longer AFC meetings or technical subcommittee meetings will likely be needed. An exchange of questions and answers occurred between John and the committee.*

### **VII. Fish passage project update –**

*Bill Wells, project manager, updated the committee on progress on the fish passage project. The Basis of Design Report was completed and copies will be sent out to AFC members. The draft biological evaluation and 404 permit were submitted to the Corps of Engineers. Updated construction cost estimates, based on current design assumptions, have been independently developed by the design engineering firm and the general contractor/construction manager. These estimates exceed the commitment amount and a value engineering effort is being undertaken to look for ways to reduce costs. Bill indicated that any changes that would be considered would not affect the safe passage of fish.*

### **VIII. Public comment (scheduled for 11:30 a.m)** No members of the public attended the meeting.

### **IX. Information/discussion**

1. Hatchery status report – Brody Antipa reported that egg to fry survival will be over 90%. They will release over 16.5 million fry. Experimental rearing is proceeding as anticipated. These fish will be released next week. They have three more weeks of release left this year. Eric reported that before and after the earthquake there were an estimated million fish per night moving down the Cedar River, based on sampling results at the WDFW fry trap site.
2. Cedar River report – Steve Foley - There are 70 coho redds still in the Cedar River. Timing is completely different from anything they've seen in the basin. There were still fish spawning on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Steve reported that, as a result of the landslide, they saw numbers of fry leaving the Cedar River drop off one night, but the number went back up the next night.

3. Limnology research – Bruce passed out the scope of work for the contract with Dave Beauchamp and Dan Schlinder at the UW. This contract complements work that Dave is currently engaged in with King County.
  4. Fish collection – Eric reported on fish collection, which he stated has been generally difficult due to weather. They are trying to collect sockeye fry with a two-boat surface trawl.
- X. Reschedule meeting date from August 16 to August 23** – There were no objections to this change, so the August meeting date has been changed to the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- XI. Plan next agenda for meeting scheduled for April 19, 2001** – Items to be included are draft of panel's guiding principles report and a report on the evaluation of the weir used to capture broodstock.
- XII. Adjourn** – meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.